



MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting of July 20, 2016

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:	Steve Rosen, Chair Kenita Barrow, Vice-Chair Barbara Fredericks Claudia Herbert
Staff Members:	Robert W. Cobb, Chief Counsel Erin Chu, Program Manager
Members of the Public:	Robert Makori Margaret Makori Mark Greenblatt Micah Greenblatt

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m.

Item 2. The minutes from the June 14, 2016, meeting were approved as presented.

Item 3. Mr. Cobb gave an update on the status of the draft regulations. He indicated that the next step would be to put them in a form that is ready for submission as an "Ethics Commission Regulation" so that they could be published. He stated that he believed that they would be handled as would any executive regulation in terms of process. There were no objections expressed or changes to the draft suggested by the Commission.

Item 4. The Commission discussed a member of the public's suggested change to the form used by Commission staff to receive requests for public financial disclosure forms. The proposed edit to the form was to strike "I certify that I will not use this information: (1) for any unlawful purpose; or (2) for any commercial purpose," and insert in lieu

thereof: "I am aware that it is unlawful to use any financial disclosure statement for commercial purposes." The Commission discussed the concerns of the member of the public expressed in email exchanges with Mr. Cobb. The Commission decided not to approve the proposed change.

Item 5. The Commission discussed the comment Mr. Cobb made regarding a legislative change to the State Ethics Law concerning Bi-County Commissions. In particular, Mr. Cobb noted how the Montgomery County Planning Board, as part of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Commission, even though its work is closely tied to County governance of development issues.

Item 6. The Commission recognized Mark Greenblatt with a service award from the County Executive for Mr. Greenblatt's service to the Commission from 2012 to 2015. Mr. Rosen presented Mr. Greenblatt with the award, and Mr. Greenblatt expressed his thanks and his appreciation for serving with the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert W. Cobb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert W. Cobb
Chief Counsel